



**March 2010 Newsletter**

Vol. 18 Issue 3

**NEXT MEETING**

**Saturday March 6th at 7:00pm  
at the American Red Cross**

### **Minutes to the February Meeting**

Club President Tom, KC0VII, called the meeting to order at 9 am, February 6th, at the Crane Chapel. Those attending the meeting were:

KC0VII Tom	N0RZO Al	KC0CFS Don	KC0CSY Denny
KA0RMP Dean	KB0SVG Mary	KB0ZBU Vern	WB0LSG Erv
KB0SPM John		KC0YQU Mike	

No official business was transacted because a quorum was not formed. However, there was an hour of friendly and informative conversation. Tom reviewed the information that can be found at APRS.FI. It is a site that allows you to monitor real time tracking of properly equipped vehicles, vessels, aircraft, balloons, etc. As an example, follow Tom and his APRS equipped pickup truck as he travels about in Iowa and Minnesota.

The 3 Amigos, the 2 hams from northern Iowa and one from Rochester, by now have launched their hydrogen filled balloon capable of climbing to 100,000 feet all the while it is being tracked by the chase team who will recover the unit after lands.

There was discussion about a club tech project soldering together an APRS tracking device.

For more information on the monolog tutorial digipeater go to <http://www.foxdelta.com> products. Cost is about 30 dollars per unit. According to Prez Tom, NIACC labs at Mason City, can be used for this get together. Invitations will be extended to area clubs, the more hams attending, the better the exchange of information.

The next meeting will be March 6th, 7 pm at the Austin Red Cross Building, 305 4th Ave NW.

The meeting was adjourned at 10.30 am.

Submitted by Dean Johnson, KA0RMP, AARC Club Secretary

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **GENERAL FUND**

Balance 01/30/10	\$958.75
Dues Paid	+080.00
Deposit	+105.00
Expenses	-013.42
Balance 02/27/10	\$1,140.75

Deposit was from guests paid at Christmas party and Dues for 2010. Expenses were for doughnuts and juice for the club meeting.

### **MAINTENANCE FUND**

Balance 12/31/09	\$4,189.43
Dues Paid	+000.00
Deposit	+00.00
Donations & Interest	+00.00
Expenses	-000.00
Withdrawal	-00.00
Balance 01/30/10	\$4,189.43

Submitted by KB0SVG Mary Nystrom / AAARC Treasurer

## **Mower County Free Fair Amateur Radio Station**

The 2010 Mower County Free Fair will be held in Austin August 10-15. We received an invitation to bring our ham radio equipment and skills back to the operating table located in the Mower County Historical Society's Fire Equipment Museum. The same location we have occupied for the last 4 years. Last year we hoisted the mobile trailer antenna mast and strung a couple dipoles from its apex to near by anchors. This was an excellent training exercise for newbies and oldies alike. It worked to our benefit. Speaking of benefit, if you are not a member of the Historical Society, please consider becoming one. It will help them maintain our heritage, our time honored assets. We can say thank you to the Society by becoming a member. The fee is minimal, the rewards are huge.

Submitted by Dean / KA0RMP.

## **AARC Recommended Nets**

Sunday Night – Austin 146.730 FM Net - 7:00pm CST  
Sunday Night – Owatonna 145.490 FM Net - 7:30pm CST  
Sunday Night – Albert Lea 146.880 FM Net - 8:00pm CST  
Sunday Night – Austin 50.400 AM Rag Chew Net - 8:30pm CST  
Sunday Night – Northern Lights 144.260 USB Net – 9pm CST  
Monday Night – North Iowa Net FM Net – 6:30pm CST  
Tuesday Night – Austin 28.410 USB Rag Chew Net - 7:00pm CST

## **Electrical Conductivity** (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Electrical conductivity or specific conductance is a measure of a material's ability to conduct an electric current. When an electrical potential difference is placed across a conductor, its movable charges flow, giving rise to an electric current. The conductivity is defined as the ratio of the current density to the electric field strength.

Having said that....which material is the better conductor? Silver, Copper, Annealed Copper, Gold, Aluminum, Sea Water, or Air.

- a. What is the best known conductor of any known metal listed above?
- b. What metal is commonly used for High Voltage Mains electricity distribution cables?
- c. What metal is commonly used in electrical contacts because it does not easily corrode?

Submitted by Dean KA0RMP

## **The Presidents Soap Box**

Well it's March... Remember that La Crosse NWS will have the Storm Spotter Class at the Crane Chapel on Tuesday 3-23-10 hope to see every one there.

Also there has been some talk of a Tech meeting sometime before spring time. I would like to suggest that we have one end of March or early April and have a kit building day. Some of the club members have an interest in APRS so the kits I would like everyone to look at is the Tiny Trak 4 from Byonics or the Fox Trak from Fox Delta. If you would like to try this take a look at Byonics and Fox Delta web site, pick the kit you would like to build and order it. We could meet on a Saturday and build them and be ready for the storm season...

<http://www.byonics.com/tinytrak4/>

<http://www.foxdelta.com/products/foxtrak.htm>

73's everyone - Tom KC0VII

## **Big Island Rendezvous**

Albert Lea [Big Island Rendezvous](#) is in October. Tom KCØMTW is looking for operators that would be interested in working at the planned special event station, KØR. The operation is scheduled for 24 hours beginning at 07:00 AM on Sat, 02-Oct. If you are interested, contact Tom KCØMTW (kc0mtw@arrl.net), Dennis NØRPI (n0rpi@arrl.net), or Ray NØWLN.